गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): (क) जी हां श्रीमान।

(ख) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार, 30.6.1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार, देश की विभिन्न जेलों में 2,56,559 कैदी थे, जिनमें से 7,750 महिला कैदी थी।

(ग) केन्द्र सरकार जेलों में कैदियों की भीड़-भाड़ की समस्या से परिचित है, जोकि मुख्य रूप से विचारणाधीन कैदियों की ज्यादा संख्या में मौजूदगी के कारण है। कैदियों की भीड़-भाड़ से न केवल मूलभूत ढांचे पर अधिक भार पड़ता है बल्कि जेल संवासियों के बीच अनुशासन बनाए रखने में भी समस्याएं पैदा होती हैं।

संविधान के अनुसार "जेल" राज्य का विषय है। अत: जेल प्रबंधन मुख्यतया राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेवारी है। तथापि, केन्द्र सरकार वित्त आयोग के पंचटों और जेल प्रशासन के आधुनिकीकरण की केन्द्रीय योजना के माध्यम से राज्य सरकारों को उनके जेल संबंधी मूलभूत ढांचे को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु वित्तीय सहायता भी प्रदान करती रही है। राज्य सरकारों के साथ बातचीत के दौरान, केन्द्र सरकार मामलों की शीघ्रता से जांच करने की आवश्यकता पर भी जोर देती रही है।

Maintenance for Separated Wives Under Cr. PC

1608. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sec. 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 restricts maintenance to Rs. 500/- per month, per person in case of a divorce suit;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 500/- is enough for a separated wife to survive; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed for early change of such antiquated laws which failed to bring hope to people's lives?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In view of the depreciation of the value of money, a Bill to amend inter alia Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on May 9, 1994 with a view to enhancing the maximum limit for payment of maintenance allowance from Rs. 500/- p.m. to Rs. 1,500/- p.m.

विदेशी पर्यटकों द्वारा किये गये तथा उनके प्रति अपराध

1609. **श्री ओंकर सिंह लखावत:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान विदेशी पर्यटकों के प्रति लूटपाट और अन्य अपराधों की कितनी घटनाएं हुई; और

(ख) उसी अवधि के दौरान भारत में विदेशी पर्यटकों द्वारा किए गए अपराधों की कितनी घटनाओं की सूचना प्राप्त हुई?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): (क) और (ख) भारत के संविधान की सातवीं अनुसूची के अनुसार "लोक व्यवस्था" और "पुलिस" राज्य के विषय होने के कारण, अपराध दर्ज करना, उसकी जांच पड़ताल करना, उसका पता लगाना और रोकथाम करना अनिवार्य रूप से राज्य सरकारों की जिम्मेवारी है। विदेशी पर्यटकों द्वारा किए गए या उनके साथ हुई अपराध की घटनाओं के बारे में केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा अलग-अलग आंकड़े नहीं रखे जाते हैं।

ISI bases in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

1610. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are fast becoming the operational bases for the ISI and other subversive agencies and the unchecked trans-border illegal migration from Bangladesh has become a convenient means of smuggling-in ISI operatives; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) While it is not correct to say that Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are fast becoming the operational bases for ISI and other subversive agencies, there is no let up in the Pak design to destablise the country by aiding and abetting activities of various terrorists/militant organisations in the country.

(b) Government is aware of the sinister designs of ISI of Pakistan to destablise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country.

The Government has taken various steps which include sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and co-ordinated actions by concerned Central/ State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding Pak ISI agents, antinational elements and insurgents.

Census of Christians by South Delhi Police

1611. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a news-item "Police Begin Christian Census, Say It's For Security Reasons" in the "Indian Express" dated February 3, 1999;

(b) whether it is a fact that the South Delhi Police has taken up the identification of Christian citizens on a premise basis;

(c) if so, whether Government agree with such an action of the police because it raises apprehensions among the minority, as alleged in the report; and

(d) the Governments response to the alleged action of the police?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, Delhi Police have issued a denial to the report contained in the said news item.

Influx from Bangladesh in Siliguri

1612. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Times of India of February, 15, 1999 to the effect that significant demographic changes in Siliguri District have alarmed Government agencies;

(b) if so, whether influx from Bangladesh has led to increase in the Muslim population and a large number of Madrassas are coming up a recent years; and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The increase in Muslim population is attributable to several factors including influx of people from across the border. A number of Madrassas have come up in the close vicinity of the West bengal-Bangladesh border during last few years.

(c) Action to strengthen vigilance has been taken in consultation with the Government of West Bengal. In addition a series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of Outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels.

Communal Violence

1613. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of communal violence during 1998; month-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed and injured in these incidents;

(c) whether Government have identified the forces behind these incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) to (e) Though 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Government, the Central Government has been taking several